

REMARKS

Five (5) formulae in the specification are amended to correctly recite the formulae. As there is no disclosure of the definition of Y¹, it was applicants' intent that Y¹ should have been Y. It was applicants' oversight disclosing Y¹. As such, the amendment to the formulae does not represent new matter because applicants did not intend to have Y¹ by defining Y¹.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the phosphorus compounds do not contain an aryl group or arylene group. The amendment is based on the disclosures of the specification on pages 5 (lines 20-27), 6 (lines 3-6 and 19-21), 7 (lines 1-8 and 21-22), 8 (lines 1-6 and 12-18), and 9 (lines 1-11) where all examples of compounds disclosed do not contain an aryl or arylene group. Again, it was applicants' intent to disclose non-aromatic compounds. As such, the amendment does not introduce new matter.

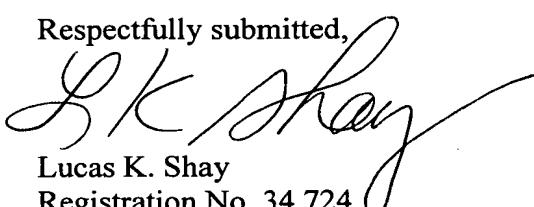
Claims 3-6, 8-9, 11-17, 20-23, 25-26, and 28-34 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The rejection is submitted to be now moot because the formulae are now included in the amended claims.

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Howell et al (US6,184,187; Howell).

The rejection is respectfully submitted to be now moot for Howell discloses only aryl- or arylene- containing phosphorus compounds. The amended claims, on the other hand, do not contain any such group or aromatic moiety. The aromatic-free phosphorus compounds are patentably distinct from an aromatic phosphorus compound.

For the foregoing reasons and discussions, applicants respectfully request that the objections and rejections be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucas K. Shay
Registration No. 34,724
Telephone: 302-992-6154
Facsimile: 302-892-7925

Dated: May 10, 2004